



16 February 2022

Tēnā koe

On 17 January 2022, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information relating to funding to the community food sector:

- *I'm doing some research into government funding to foodbanks and other food organisations during COVID, since the beginning of the pandemic. I saw that Minister Sepuloni made a recent announcement of additional funding. Could I please make an OIA request for any formal advice on this, including Cabinet papers and Budget material? I'm particularly interested in the policy reasoning officials did - eg, the problems they were seeing, how they estimated demand, how they decided this was the best course of action - so grateful for any additional information that isn't formal advice as such.*

Please note that the Ministry has interpreted your request to be relating to funding to the community food sector. The following three documents have been identified as in scope attached to this response:

1. Submission Seeking Funding for COVID-19 Related Cost
2. COVID-19 - Government's Response to Increased Ongoing Demand for Access to Food and Other Essential Wellbeing Items

This report can be accessed at the following link: [www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/information-releases/cabinet-papers/2022/response-to-increased-ongoing-demand.html](http://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/information-releases/cabinet-papers/2022/response-to-increased-ongoing-demand.html).

3. COVID-19 - Responding to Sustained Demand for Access to Food and Other Essential Wellbeing Items

This report can be accessed at the following link: [www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/information-releases/cabinet-papers/2022/sustained-demand-for-access-to-food.html](http://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/information-releases/cabinet-papers/2022/sustained-demand-for-access-to-food.html).

More useful information can be found at the following links:

[www.msd.govt.nz/what-we-can-do/community/food-secure-communities/index.html](http://www.msd.govt.nz/what-we-can-do/community/food-secure-communities/index.html).

[www.mbie.govt.nz/business-and-employment/economic-development/reactivating-tamaki-makaurau-auckland-package/](http://www.mbie.govt.nz/business-and-employment/economic-development/reactivating-tamaki-makaurau-auckland-package/).

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter and any attached documents available to the wider public. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter and attachments on the Ministry's website. Your personal details will be deleted, and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact [OIA\\_Requests@msd.govt.nz](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui



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